

Montana WIC

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children



Montana WIC Program
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WIC – Building Healthy & Strong Families

WIC Local Agency Conference Call - Report

February 7, 2013

Attendees

- Local Agency Staff from - Broadwater, Cascade, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Hill, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Teton, Valley, Riverstone, Northern Cheyenne, Blackfeet, Crow, Ft Belknap, Rocky Boy
- State staff - Joan, Chris, Denise, Glade, Kate, Bernadette, Leah and Carrie

Program Updates

- New staff at State office
 - Kate Girard, RD – Nutrition Services 444-5923 kgirard@mt.gov
 - Alex Lee – IT temp M-SPIRIT Tester and Helpdesk
 - Emma Ellwein – Program Assistant/Front Desk, beginning Feb 11th
- Funding
 - No news at this point. The next hurdle is the March 1st budget deadline. If the US goes over the “fiscal cliff” it could mean a 5% cut in funding, which raises concerns about future food dollars. Let’s hope a budget is agreed upon!
- Legislative Audit
 - The State WIC Program is undergoing a Legislative Audit and so far everything is looking good. No word if they will be auditing a Local Agency, but we will let you know if and when that will take place.
- Post Card Survey
 - Please send the completed post cards to the State office as they are completed. Once the results are compiled, we will share them!

Spring Meeting – April 16, 17 & 18 Missoula MT

- Registration post cards should be arriving soon.
- The WIC day will be on Tuesday, April 16th. Items on the agenda include State program items, Innovative Technology, a Breastfeeding speaker and a speaker on Cultural Diversity.
- The MAWA meeting/breakfast will take place on the morning of Tuesday, April 16th.

Wheat Montana Bread

- We are happy to let you know that Wheat Montana has baked a 16oz loaf of 100% whole wheat bread which meets the WIC nutritional requirement! Wheat Montana is hoping to have the bread available throughout the state with a mid-February implementation date.

- Local Agencies will be sent stickers which will need to be placed in the green whole grain section of the food list. A clinic poster will be included in next week's newsletter. Retailers will be sent a memo notifying them of this addition to the food list. They will be receiving stickers as well as a shelf tag.
- A notice will be placed in the weekly newsletter when everything is in place and participants can begin purchasing the bread.

Scales

- Local Agencies have asked about "Weights & Measures" no longer calibrating non-commercial scales. A decision has not been finalized, but if they decide not to continue with the service, there are private companies that can calibrate scales. They can be found on the "Weights & Measures" website. If you have purchased weights to calibrate your own scales, you may continue to do this.

VENA

- In the next SPIRIT release, there will be changes made to what we refer to as VENA. The tab label will change to "Assessment". Other changes were also made. State staff and representatives from local agencies reviewed the current questions and drafted changes. Comments on the drafts are being reviewed at this time. We worked to reduce the number of questions and when possible the amount of typing you would have to do.
- SPIRIT will provide the correct set of questions according to the participant's category, amount of breastfeeding (infants) and age.
- We will be adding a listing of possible nutrition education topic and referrals which may be appropriate for the participant. These are suggestions for you, possible ideas for the participant's nutrition care plan.
- We will be providing training on the new "Assessment" questions with the next local agency conference call on March 7th.

RD Discussion

- RD services and requests for special formulas need to be made through your staff RD or contracted RD. This will provide better linkage so the RD knows what participants are receiving. They will also be better informed when making decisions on care plan content and frequency of visits.

Notice of Ineligibility

- If you try to print an official notification in M-SPIRIT you may instead receive this error message: "There is insufficient information to generate the Official Notice for the participant." If you receive this error you have a couple of options: 1.) Terminate the participant, print the official notification and then re-instate participant, or; 2.) Print a paper form and scan a copy into the participant's folder. The form can be found on the resources link of the Local Agency webpage and in the State Plan.

Time Studies

- Time Studies were due February 6th. Some staff continues to have problems submitting the form. Please do not use the old template. It has an inactive e-mail account imbedded into it and cannot be delivered. A new template is being worked on, but a clean one can be found on the Local Agency page of the website.

Local Agency Monitoring Schedule Update

- There have been some updates to the Local Agency monitoring schedule. The schedule is included in the newsletter.

Retail Store Update

- There are some new stores joining the WIC Program!
 - Milligan's IGA in Absarokee is newly authorized.
 - Cory's Valley Market in Seeley Lake is in the process of becoming authorized.
 - Van's IGA in Dillon is in the process of becoming authorized.
 - Albertson's stores are changing corporate ownership. New contracts will be issued which will include new WIC id numbers. LARCS will not need to conduct store visits.
- As you are conducting retail monitoring visits, please take special note of the "WE Accept WIC" decals. Some stores (including Albertson's) are not consistently hanging the signs.

Sharing and Updates by Local Agency Staff

- When will Local Agencies be informed of the upcoming changes to the FMNP program? A memo will be sent to each participating FMNP agency which will include the proposed changes.

Next call – Thursday, March 7th 9am-11am

- Training on upcoming M-SPIRIT changes, including the Vena/Assessment tab updates.
- The training will be the first agenda item and will last about 30 minutes.

May call moved to Thursday, May 9th 9am- 11am